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THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES
20th ANNUAL CONFERENCE - OXFORD - September 7 - 10
JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

Dear Conference Member,

1. We are very much looking forward to seeing you at Christ Church, Oxford, for the Institute's 20th Annual Conference from September 7 - 10.

2. I enclose herewith the Director's Introductory Note.

3. ACCOMMODATION

You will be accommodated in Christ Church unless you have signified that you are making your own arrangements.

4. ARRIVAL AT CHRIST CHURCH

- a) You are requested to go first to the Porter's Lodge at Tom Gate in St. Aldate's where you will be informed of the location of your room.
- b) You are then requested to make yourself known at the Conference Office in Tom.6.1 (rooms in Christ Church are described by the name of the Quad(rangle), the number of the staircase, followed by the number of the room) where you will receive your Conference Papers. This office will be open from 1100 on September 7, but Papers will not be available until 1500.

5. ARRIVALS BY TRAIN

Those arriving by train should make their own way to Christ Church. Taxis will be available at the Station.

6. ARRIVALS BY AIR WHO REQUIRE DIRECT TRANSPORTATION TO OXFORD

- a) There are three terminals at London (Heathrow) Airport:
 - Terminal 1 - Arrivals by British Airways' European and Domestic flights
 - Terminal 2 - Arrivals from Europe by other air lines
 - Terminal 3 - Inter-continental arrivals
 These three terminals are connected by moving walk-ways.
- b) The IISS Desk will be situated in No. 2 Terminal on the First Floor (second floor in American) almost opposite the Information Desk and next to the Sabena Ticket Desk.
- c) After passing through Customs and Immigration you should make your way to this desk where you will be given your bus ticket to Oxford and will be told the time of your bus-departure. On present plans buses will leave at: 0930, 1200, 1515 and 1730 but these timings are subject to alteration as only some 60% of participants have so far notified us of their travel plans.
- d) We are sorry that some of our participants may have to wait for a bus but our staff will look after them and their baggage and will help in any other way they can.

7. PROGRAMME - September 7

The Conference opens with dinner at 1915, followed by the first Plenary Session at 2030. The bar in the Buttery will be open from 1800.

8. CURRENCY

Please ensure that, before arrival in Oxford, you have sufficient Sterling cash or Travellers' Cheques in your possession to meet your expected expenditure.

A. E. Majendie,
Administrative Director.

15th August, 1978

IISS TWENTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

August 1978

Dear Conference Participant,

I am pleased that you will be able to join us for the Institute's 20th Annual Conference in Oxford in September. The subject of this year's meeting - "Prospects of Soviet Power in the 1980s" - is ambitious, and the number of participants will be unusually high as a result of the considerable interest the Conference theme has elicited. I feel it might be helpful, therefore, if I point out some of the specific features of the Conference and some of the results we hope to achieve from it.

The Conference will be similarly structured as last year. There will be four plenary sessions intended to set the general framework (I. "The Concept of Power and Security in Soviet History", II. "Sources of Soviet Power: Economy, Population, Resources", III. "Sources of Soviet Power: the Military Potential in the 1980s", IV. "The Soviet Union in the International System of the 1980s"). Briefings will provide as much information on specific issues as possible ((i) The Military Procurement Process, (ii) Soviet Strategic Concepts, (iii) Recruitment Patterns for the Leadership, (iv) Economic Resources and Dependencies). Committees will allow discussion on four problem areas of Soviet power and policies in the 1980s (1. The West in the Soviet Perspective, 2. Soviet Power and Policies in the Third World, 3. Influence and Ideology, 4. The Concern for Security).

Three particular points will be important for participants to keep in mind. The briefings will be short, concentrated presentations, each followed by a question and answer period; they will be available to all participants, and the Conference will split into two halves to facilitate this exchange of information. Second, because of the large number of participants this year, committees will also be large; to avoid some becoming unmanageably so, we will have to be fairly strict in the allocation of committee membership. Finally, this year's Conference will include about 15% more participants than previous ones, yet we still had to reject many more requests. Because of the size of the meeting, control will in any case not be easy, and we will need your co-operation at every stage to maintain the standards established by previous ones.

This is particularly important given the scope and nature of this year's theme. The potential of Soviet power, whether or not the Soviet Union can become a member of the international community in terms compatible with Western notions of stability and order, the significance of internal limitations on Soviet international behaviour - these will be central issues of international security in the 1980s. Much of the Western debate has centred on what should be Western and non-Soviet policy toward the Soviet Union. This is understandable since it has been a continuous task for our governments. But as an analytical approach to the relevance and limits of Soviet power, it suffers from two shortcomings. First, it tends to be based on assumptions of Soviet motives

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and aspirations defined in Western rather than Soviet terms; and second, many of these Western assumptions result less from a specific view of the Soviet Union than from general attitudes to the nature of the international order, ideological competition, the relevance of force as an instrument of policy, the state and evolution of military balances and the task of democratic government. As a result, much of the debate about Soviet power and policies has been overshadowed by these general attitudes, and this explains much of the emotionalism and even bitterness that can be detected in the discussion between various strands of non-Soviet, and in particular Western, attitudes toward the Soviet Union.

For the assessment of Soviet power in the 1980s it will be important to separate, as much as that is possible, attitude from substance. The 1978 Annual Conference will therefore focus in the first instance, not on Western perspectives and responses, but on how things look from the Soviet Union: what, in Soviet terms, are the functions of power, the nature of international competition and the emerging problems of security? And what, again in Soviet terms, are the economic, social, ideological and technological limitations on the application of force and power that follow both from the constraints within the Soviet system itself and from those in the international arena as they are experienced or expected by Soviet policy?

The Conference programme is designed with this purpose in mind. I hope we can achieve it together in Oxford.

CHRISTOPH BERTRAM